

SECRET

REPORT NO.

50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)

50X1

DATE DISTR. 4 March 1954

SUBJECT Pamphlet Given Soviet Army Personnel on
Defense Against A-Bomb Attack

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

1. In late December 1953 or early January 1954, our CO gave the sergeant in charge of 14 EM in the Special Section a pamphlet dealing with defense against atomic attack. This was the first time that any member of the Special Section had heard of defensive measures to be taken in the event of atomic war. This pamphlet was about 6 x 10 in. in size; it had a light blue cover, normal size print, and was about 20 pages thick. I never read this pamphlet myself. I do not know, therefore, whether it was classified, what its title was, or any other like details. There was only the one copy for the 14 EM. The copy remained with the section 7 to 10 days, as the CO apparently was limited in the time he could retain it.

2. The sergeant evidently was either to read the pamphlet to the EM himself or to have them read it individually. The EM showed no interest; the sergeant did, however, read it. After several days the CO assembled all the EM and asked if the pamphlet had been read. Learning that they had not read it or had it read to them, the CO became angry and threatened any EM not knowing the contents of the pamphlet within the next four hours with detention in the guardhouse. The sergeant then read the pamphlet to the EM.

the CO returned and asked each EM a question or two about the contents of the pamphlet. Apparently satisfied, he ordered the EM to be sure to read the pamphlet, and then he left. All 14 EM were indifferent to the subject of an atomic war. Their attitude was that, should an A-bomb be dropped, one either would be killed or would not be killed. Few of the EM obeyed the CO's order to read the pamphlet. This was the only occasion on which the subject of defense against atomic attack was brought up in my unit. From conversations which I had with regular EM of the 23rd AAA Division, I gathered that they had received much more instruction on the subject and had participated in tactical exercises where an A-bomb attack was simulated. I gathered from the remarks of several officers that officers received more instruction on the subject than EM, that they had studied it more, and had attended lectures.

SECRET

SECRET

3. I recall the contents of the pamphlet as follows:

- a. General description of the atom.
- b. Description of an atomic explosion (brilliant flash, bright flame, smoke column, billowing clouds).
- c. The pamphlet stated that usually several hours' advance notice would be given of an atomic attack, enough time to dig foxholes for both personnel and equipment. I do not know how this advance notice was to be obtained. In the event of an atomic attack which was a complete surprise, orders were to take cover in a hole or pit or to fall face down away from the flash.
- d. The pamphlet stated that everything within a radius of two kilometers from the blast would be totally destroyed; I remember no mention of radioactivity beyond the two-kilometer radius. The pamphlet further said that special protective clothing would permit entrance into the area of radioactivity, but I do not recall how soon after the blast this was to be possible.
- e. The pamphlet mentioned that radioactive burns could be fatal; I do not recall anything about the treatment of such burns. Although the pamphlet said that protective clothing was to be donned soon before the blast or as soon as possible after the blast, no mention was made of a general issue of such clothing.
- f. The pamphlet stated that small arms were to be thoroughly cleaned with kerosene or gasoline after the blast. There was no mention of procedures to be taken with tanks, artillery, or other heavy equipment.

The pamphlet dealt only with the subject of A-bomb attack. I heard nothing about atomic artillery.

4. Toward the end of January 1954, the 23rd AAA Division participated in tactical field exercises which included a simulated A-bomb attack. My own unit did not participate; I have no knowledge of the participation of other units than the 23rd Division, of the location where the exercises were conducted, or if special representatives from Moscow were present. I think the exercises lasted for from four to seven days. I think that these exercises were the regularly scheduled winter exercises, and that they were being put on for inspection by a regular inspection team, but that they were concerned exclusively with defense against A-bomb attack. Soldiers who participated in the exercises told me that they had taken protective clothing with them on the exercises and had engaged in much digging. They also said that the exercises had been considered only an average success. No other details.
5. I never heard any mention of the possibility of Soviet use of the A-bomb at a tactical or strategic level.

SECRET